

Exhibit 7

From: [Turk, Amy Morrissey](#)
To: ["Alex Burkhalter"](#); [David A. Burkhalter II](#)
Cc: [Cooley, Laura J.](#); [Retzlaff, Carl Alexander](#); [Higgins, Shanna Eisenhauer](#)
Subject: FW: DG/Battle - Draft Forensic Protocol
Date: Thursday, October 17, 2024 12:43:18 PM
Attachments: [Draft Forensic Protocol\(194720280.1\).docx](#)

David and Alex –

We have conferred with our client. Dollar General is willing to shoulder the cost of the forensic protocol in its entirety, in exchange for your client agreeing to provide the devices into which he inserted the USB drive for examination, subject to the caveat that if an impermissible misappropriation of Dollar General's information is discovered and confirmed in any subsequent litigation or arbitration, you understand Dollar General will include the costs of the examination as part of our litigation costs.

I hope this is an agreeable compromise for you. Please let us know and we will retain the neutral examiner and circulate a final revised version of the protocol for the examiner's review before execution.

Please also respond to our question below asking for clarification to your edits to page 2 of the draft forensic protocol.

Amy

Amy Morrissey Turk

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From: Cooley, Laura J.

Sent: Wednesday, October 2, 2024 11:05 AM

To: 'Alex Burkhalter' <alex@burkhalterlaw.com>; David A. Burkhalter II <david@burkhalterlaw.com>

Cc: Turk, Amy Morrissey <ATurk@mcguirewoods.com>; Zachary Burkhalter <zach@burkhalterlaw.com>; Retzloff, Carl Alexander <CRetzloff@mcguirewoods.com>; Higgins, Shanna Eisenhauer <shiggins@mcguirewoods.com>
Subject: RE: DG/Battle - Draft Forensic Protocol-- RESPONSE NEEDED BY COB September 26

David and Alex – I am just writing to confirm the outcome of our discussion today. In summary:

- Dollar General's position is that it needs to understand whether and how Dr. Battle was accessing or using the documents on the USB drive, not on his Dollar General computer, but on his personal computer(s), in order to move this matter forward to discuss what you all want to discuss, which is the allegations Dr. Battle has made about the nature of his termination.
- You agreed to check if your client will agree to the examination of his personal devices along with the USB drive.
- You don't agree to share the cost of the forensic examination. We agreed to check with our client whether we can agree to bear the cost alone.

We will circle back to you as soon as we have an answer from our client and trust you will do the same.

Additionally, in light of the disagreements above, we failed to ask a clarifying question about one of your edits. We noted on page 2 that you deleted the language requiring Dr. Battle to return any hard copy documents in his possession and to certify under penalty of perjury that he has none in his possession, custody or control. Have you deleted this language out of concern for document preservation? If so, could we revise to clarify that Dr. Battle will place the documents in your possession and certify he has done so? If not, please explain what your issue with this language is.

Thanks,
Laura

Laura J. Cooley

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From: Alex Burkhalter <alex@burkhalterlaw.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 6:57 PM
To: Cooley, Laura J. <LCooley@mcguirewoods.com>
Cc: Turk, Amy Morrissey <ATurk@mcguirewoods.com>; David A. Burkhalter II <david@burkhalterlaw.com>; Zachary Burkhalter <zach@burkhalterlaw.com>; Retzloff, Carl Alexander <cretzloff@mcguirewoods.com>; Higgins, Shanna Eisenhauer <shiggins@mcguirewoods.com>
Subject: Re: DG/Battle - Draft Forensic Protocol-- RESPONSE NEEDED BY COB September 26

****EXTERNAL EMAIL; use caution with links and attachments****

10:30 works for us.

D. Alexander Burkhalter, III
The Burkhalter Law Firm, P.C.

Sent from my iPhone.

On Oct 1, 2024, at 4:33 PM, Cooley, Laura J. <LCooley@mcguirewoods.com> wrote:

We could do 9:30-10, or 10:30-11:30.

Laura J. Cooley

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lcooley@mcguirewoods.com

From: Alex Burkhalter <alex@burkhalterlaw.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 4:30 PM

To: Cooley, Laura J. <LCooley@mcguirewoods.com>

Cc: Turk, Amy Morrissey <ATurk@mcguirewoods.com>; David A. Burkhalter II <david@burkhalterlaw.com>; Zachary Burkhalter <zach@burkhalterlaw.com>; Retzloff, Carl Alexander <cretzloff@mcguirewoods.com>; Higgins, Shanna Eisenhauer <shiggins@mcguirewoods.com>

Subject: Re: DG/Battle - Draft Forensic Protocol-- RESPONSE NEEDED BY COB September 26

****EXTERNAL EMAIL; use caution with links and attachments****

Laura: Could you be available anytime tomorrow morning? I'm supposed to attend an arbitration hearing that afternoon, and David is in appointments.

D. Alexander Burkhalter, III
The Burkhalter Law Firm, P.C.

Sent from my iPhone.

On Oct 1, 2024, at 12:02 PM, Cooley, Laura J.
<LCooley@mcguirewoods.com> wrote:

Alex – I think it makes the most sense to get on the phone to discuss how to finalize this. We're available any time this afternoon, or tomorrow after 12:30 EST. Let us know what works for you and I'll circulate an invite.

Thanks,
Laura

Laura J. Cooley

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lcooley@mcguirewoods.com

From: Alex Burkhalter <alex@burkhalterlaw.com>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2024 2:24 PM
To: Turk, Amy Morrissey <ATurk@mcguirewoods.com>
Cc: David A. Burkhalter II <david@burkhalterlaw.com>; Zachary Burkhalter <zach@burkhalterlaw.com>; Cooley, Laura J. <LCooley@mcguirewoods.com>; Retzloff, Carl Alexander <cretzloff@mcguirewoods.com>; Higgins, Shanna Eisenhauer <shiggins@mcguirewoods.com>
Subject: Re: DG/Battle - Draft Forensic Protocol-- RESPONSE NEEDED BY COB September 26
Importance: High

****EXTERNAL EMAIL; use caution with links and attachments****

Good afternoon, Amy: Attached are the changes to the forensic protocol (in track changes). Let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Alex Burkhalter

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On Sep 24, 2024, at 6:02 PM, Turk, Amy Morrissey
<ATurk@mcguirewoods.com> wrote:

Counsel –

We sent you the attached draft forensic protocol at the end of last week and have not received a response. Please advise if you agree with this protocol by **COB September 26** so we can send it to bit-x-bit for their

input. Given the length of time that Dr. Battle retained the USB in his possession before turning it over to counsel, time is of the essence, and it is not reasonable to further delay the forensic examination of the USB and any devices that Dr. Battle used it in.

Amy

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From: Cooley, Laura J.

Sent: Friday, September 20, 2024 3:22 PM

To: 'David Burkhalter' <david@burkhalterlaw.com>; Alex Burkhalter <alex@burkhalterlaw.com>; Zachary Burkhalter <zach@burkhalterlaw.com>

Cc: Turk, Amy Morrissey <ATurk@mcguirewoods.com>; Retzloff, Carl Alexander <CRetzloff@mcguirewoods.com>; Higgins, Shanna Eisenhauer <shiggins@mcguirewoods.com>

Subject: DG/Battle - Draft Forensic Protocol

David,

Please find attached a draft forensic protocol, which outlines the procedures to be followed in obtaining a third party analysis on what documents Dr. Battle downloaded to the USB drive and how he has

utilized them, and also for removing those documents from the USB while preserving the other personal and third party information on the drive.

We have looked into some potential vendors and suggest bit-x-bit: <https://www.bit-x-bit.com/>

Please let us know if it would be easiest for you if we jump on a call to discuss this protocol and how to move forward. We would suggest that we select a vendor and send them the draft protocol before finalizing it ourselves, to make sure it comports with their processes and procedures.

Thanks,
Laura

Laura J. Cooley

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<Draft Forensic Protocol(194720280.1).docx>